

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Abstract section on page 175 of the specification as follows:

~~The invention is directed towards routing method and apparatus. Some embodiments provide a~~ A routing method that uses diagonal routes. This method routes several nets within a region of a circuit layout. Each net includes a set of pins in the region. The method initially partitions the region into several sub-regions. For each particular net in the region, the method then identifies a route that connects the sub-regions that contains a pin from the set of pins of the particular net. Some of the identified routes have edges that are at least partially diagonal.